



Facts About...

HIV Infection in King County

SUMMARY: There are many HIV epidemics occurring among different populations with striking variations in infection rates. Sexual and needle-sharing practices are predictive of risk for HIV infection. Sexually active gay and bisexual men in King County are at highest risk, with an estimated 14-21% infected. Meanwhile, fewer than 3% of heterosexual injection drug users are infected. Excluding men who have sex with men and injection drug users, About 1 of every 1000 persons who report neither HIV risk (injection drug use, or men who have sex with men) are infected. The rates of HIV infection also vary by sex, race, age, and residence. Rates are higher among African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans compared with Whites and Asians. Rates are also higher among men, persons age 30-45, and residents of Seattle. These variations emphasize the need to target HIV prevention programs to specific populations at risk.

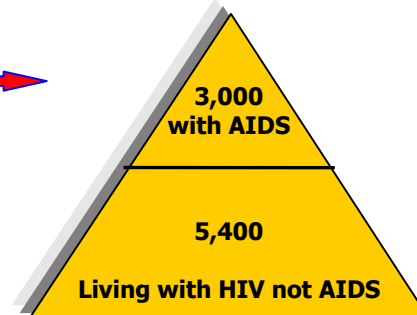
KING COUNTY RESIDENTS CURRENTLY LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS:

- We estimate that 8,400 King County residents are currently living with HIV, including some who have developed AIDS, some diagnosed with HIV without AIDS, and some who have not yet learned of their infection. Over one-third (3,000) have developed severe complications of HIV infection, or AIDS. The remaining two-thirds have HIV infection but have not developed AIDS.

**An Estimated 8,400 Persons
Currently Live with HIV or
AIDS in King County**



In addition, there have been
3,768 cumulative HIV/AIDS
deaths as of 6/30/2002



- An estimated 13-21% of sexually active men who have sex with men (MSM) are infected with HIV. MSM who also inject drugs have an even higher HIV infection rate, with about 21-32% infected.
- Approximately 3% of heterosexual drug injectors are infected with HIV.
- About 15% of the estimated 175 to 200 persons with inherited severe bleeding disorders (hemophilia) in King County are HIV positive. These infections occurred prior in the U.S. prior to 1985, or more recently in other countries where screening of blood products is inconsistent.
- Estimated HIV prevalence is higher among African Americans (1.3%), Native Americans (1.0%), and Hispanics (0.7%), than among Whites (0.5%) or Asian or Pacific Islanders (0.1%).
- Data from the Survey of Childbearing Women between January 1989 and May, 1995 showed one of every 2,400 King County women giving birth were HIV infected (0.04%), with no change over time. The rate of HIV infection was ten times higher among African American women giving birth than for White women giving birth (0.3% vs. 0.03%).
- A much higher proportion of Seattle residents (1.3%) are HIV infected, compared with King County residents living outside Seattle (0.1%). While 32% of King County residents live in Seattle, about 86% of King County's HIV positive residents live there.

King County Populations & Persons Living with HIV or AIDS					
CHARACTERISTIC	GROUP	ESTIMATED POPULATION ¹	ESTIMATED HIV PREVALENCE	% INFECTED WITH HIV	TREND 1993-95 vs. 1996-98 vs. 1999-2001
SEX	Male	864,457	7,630	0.9%	Down
	Female	872,577	770	0.1%	Up
CURRENT AGE	0 – 12 years	283,075	40	0.01%	None
	13 – 19 years	151,661	170	0.1%	None
	20 – 24 years	116,597	830	0.7%	None
	25 – 49 years	742,542	6,919	0.9%	None
	50 years and older	443,249	440	0.1%	None
RACE	White, not Hispanic	1,327,891	6,150	0.5%	Down
	Black, not Hispanic	95,597	1,240	1.3%	Up
	Hispanic	95,242	690	0.7%	Up
	Asian/Pacific Islander	203,435	180	0.1%	None
	American Indian/AK Native	14,869	140	1.0%	Up
MODE OF HIV EXPOSURE	Men who had sex with men (MSM) in past 10 years ²	30,000-50,000	6,310	13-21%	Down
	Injection drug use (IDU)	15,000	620	4%	None
	MSM - IDU	2,500-3,800	800	21-32%	None
	Heterosexual contact ²	1,245,000	560	< 0.1%	Up
	Blood Exposure	-----	70	-----	None
	Birth to HIV-infected Mother	-----	40	-----	None
RESIDENCE	City of Seattle	563,486	7190	1.3%	None
	King County outside Seattle	1,173,548	1210	0.1%	None
TOTAL, King County		1,737,034	8,400	0.5%	

¹ U.S. Census 2000. Race populations are estimated for single race classification only.

² Estimated HIV Prevalence for Heterosexual contact exclude the heterosexual IDU.

TRENDS IN HIV AMONG KING COUNTY RESIDENTS:

- Several methods of estimating HIV in King County suggest there are about 400-500 new HIV diagnoses each year among King County residents, with no change over the past several years.
- The trends discussed below are based upon changes in proportions over time. This allows direct comparison of time periods with varying total numbers of persons diagnosed. It also allows comparison of two groups that are changing at different rates, and allows analysis of incomplete data.
- Among King County men who have sex with men (MSM) who were tested more than once at the Public Health HIV/AIDS Program (HAP) alternative test site between 1986 and 1998, HIV incidence ranged between 1.3 and 1.7 per 100 MSM annually.
- The proportion of new HIV diagnoses that are among MSM has declined over time. MSM made up 78% of new diagnoses with a known risk in 1993-95, while MSM made up 71% of new diagnoses in 1999-2001.
- The percentage of new diagnoses among persons with a known risk of a heterosexual sex partner with a known risk factor for HIV infection increased from 5% (76 cases 1993-95) to 12% (124 cases 1999-2001).
- The proportion of new diagnoses among White men has declined from 71% (1993-95) to 60% (1999-2001), mostly due to the decline in diagnoses among MSM. However the proportion of new diagnoses has increased among African American men (11% to 14%) and among Hispanic men (7% to 9%).
- As heterosexual transmission has increased, new HIV/AIDS cases among females has also risen, from 8% of total cases (1993-95) to 13% (1999-01). The percentage of new diagnoses to Black women increased from 3% to 7%.
- During the period 1999 through 2001, there were two new HIV/AIDS diagnoses among children under 13, and 15 among teens age 13-19. Ten percent of new diagnoses were persons 20-24 years old, 20% were 25-29 years old, 44% were 30-39 years old, 19% were 40-49 years of age, and 5% were age 50 or older.
- During 1999-2001, 85% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses were of residents of Seattle, while the remaining 15% were of King County residents living outside of Seattle.
- Trend data are based on when HIV infection was diagnosed, regardless of how long each person was infected before being tested.